

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for providing quality control in a medical analysis instrument is provided. The method includes the steps of: 1) sending one or more quality control specimens to an operator of the analytical instrument; 2) directly or indirectly communicating control data to the analytical instrument, wherein the control data relates acceptable standards to the analytical instrument; 3) analyzing the quality control specimen using the analytical instrument and thereby creating instrument analysis data; 4) evaluating the instrument analysis data using the control data to determine a functional status of the analytical instrument; 5) providing notice to the operator regarding the functional status of the analytical instrument; and 6) optionally preventing the reporting of patient data from the instrument if the functional status is unacceptable.